

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
645 PINE STREET
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
COMMISSION MEETING MARCH 16, 2022
FINAL MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Commissioner Bose, Commissioner Hogan (Chair), Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Munteanu, Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco (Vice-Chair), Commissioner Overby

Commissioner Absent – Commissioner Munteanu (*Note: Commissioner Barr needed to depart the call early at approximately 8:05 p.m.*)

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco seconded

Director Spencer stated there was a request for edits in the minutes you can approve with draft or move to item 4.1.

Commissioner Barr was in agreement with the motion

Commissioner Hogan stated we could also move them to next month meeting.

Commissioner Barr stated he was amendable to moving them to next month.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco seconded

Mr. Goulding stated the changes to the minutes were circulated late so he takes responsibility for the Commissioners not receiving them earlier.

Commissioner Barr stated he accepts the agenda with removal of draft minutes to April.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco seconded

Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Scotia Jordan stated she was against the homeless pods on Elmwood Avenue. She would like to see the list with the nine other locations that were under consideration for this project.

Mary Abair Albarelli also stated she was here to speak about the homeless pods on Elmwood Avenue. She owns an eight apartment house on Monroe Street and states that there is already many problems in the neighborhood with the homeless there during the day. What is going to happen? Who is going to supervise this area and what about cooking and bathroom facilities? I am concerned that the neighborhood will be

downgraded. Please put the pods in another area of the city, somewhere other than the Old North End.

Nicholas _____ is a landowner in the neighborhood. He has received several phone calls over safety and fear in their residential neighborhood. This is going to be a wet development where drinking will be allowed. What about drugs? Why weren't we homeowners notified about where this location was going to be?

Sharon Bushor called and wanted to first thank the Public Works staff for reaching out to the residents of East Avenue in reference to the work that will be done in their neighborhood. She also expressed her support of the homeless pods. She stated that there was no notification to the neighbors and neighborhood about what was happening. There should be a meeting to hear from the neighbors not having everything laid out. Should identify other sites so the public can be informed.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

- A – Approval of Draft Minutes 2-16-22
- B – 343 North Street Reallocation of an Accessible Parking Space
- C – Shelburne Street Roundabout Traffic Regulations
- D – No Parking Zone at 12 Overlake Park

Commissioner Hogan stated that Item 4a has been removed from the agenda. We will be voting on Items 4B, 4C and 4D.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the consent agenda
Commissioner Bose seconded
Unanimous approval.

ITEM 5 – CLEAN WATER RESILIENCY PLAN AND INTEGRATED PERMIT UPDATE

Assistant Director Megan Moir did a review of the aging Wastewater and Storm Water infrastructure.

- Excess phosphorous from wastewater and storm water
- Sewer overflows – excess soil erosion
- Explain clean water resiliency
- Where we are presently at.

Voters approved \$30 Million in 2018 – 2018 bond money will be 80% programmed by end of 2022.

Engineer Martin Lee spoke about the aging infrastructure stated that key upgrades at all three wastewater treatments plants is done. All three plants we replaced the disinfection system with modern equipment. Main plant were replaced the central computer system.

Flynn Avenue replaced two old pump stations

Fletcher Place pump station

Water pipe rehab 7600 feet

Collection system pipe rehab 48,000 feet

Higher impact project locations water relining on Home Avenue, North Prospect Street, Ledge Road, Deforest Road and Overlake Park (if funding available)

Sewer replacement at several locations in the city.

There will be full width paving is part of the work at North Prospect, Lakewood Parkway and Tallwood Lane.

Division Director Moir went on to explain about the risk scores for systems at the Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plants. There has been some progress but still a lot to do. We need an additional \$150 Million for these plants alone; we will consider the availability of federal funding; consider long term bonds (35-50 year); a possibility of east plant consolidation with the main plant. We also have to consider other infrastructure money for wastewater, storm water and drinking water.

Jenna Olson is in charge of the Stormwater Program at the Water Resources Division and she went into an explanation of what are the threats to the lake health. She went onto explain how the blooms happen in Lake Champlain and explained what is a load - which is how much treated wastewater or storm water runoff enters a water body each year which would equal how many pounds of phosphorous is delivered to the water body.

Project Portfolios

Portfolio Options

Preferred portfolio

CSS mitigation efforts

Urban Streamflow Restoration

And the next steps that need to happen.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about rain gardens and how locations are determined. What model is being used for that?

Jenna explained that the series of gardens that we installed last summer in the south end were sited in those areas because they are within an area of the collection system that contributes to Pine Street CSO and they have appropriate soil conditions to promote infiltration. Looking for sandy soils to a decent depth and looking for a good separation to ground water and things like that.

Director Moir stated that we take any sort of large scale road reconstruction as an opportunity for our staff to look and see what are the opportunities.

Vice Chair O'Neill-Vivanco – Martin you had mentioned 7600 feet of water pipe rehab and 48000 feet of collection pipe rehab. What percentage of the total is that? What percentage of the total is that and how much more do we need to do?

Engineer Lee stated we have roughly 110 miles of water and something of that magnitude is about one percent.

Director Moir is recalling it is roughly 57 miles of sewer and maybe 56, it's roughly the same because it's largely based on the streets. It is roughly 48 miles, it is a chunk, we went through a whole map of; we filmed 20% of the system based on our risk or consequence of failure and of the ones we filmed, we are tackling those pipes.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco stated she liked what she said that we are dealing with those first. You also talked about the storm water outfall improvements so with having that help the slope stabilization, especially along Manhattan Drive, because that bang for the buck affects more of the infrastructure. You also mentioned six other high-risk areas. Is there a priority list how to tackle those? Is it based on a funding risk?

Jenna Olsen explained that there is a scoring framework that has been developed over the last several years and has recently been updated by our new Asset Manager Rocky Vogler. The next round of outfalls is based on a number of criteria specifically surrounding risks.

Commissioner Overby asked what is the CSO? GSI Old North End item that was on your slides? Is that one of the outfalls areas along Manhattan Drive?

Jenna Olsen explained that that is actually the next phase of projects that we came to you guys about last spring. That was a millions dollar grant that we got at the end of 2018. The next phase is two sub surface systems on Rose and School Street in the Old North End.

Commissioner Overby asked what the protocol was when the rain gardens were put in for keeping them cleaned out. I've had a comment from somebody who lives on Grant Street about the one that is there is not well maintained.

Jenna Olson stated that there is a contractor that takes care of the gardens. IF there is an issue with the one on Grant Street they should contact us.

Commissioner Overby one of your slides talks about the risk systems what is the definition of a system that you're using.

Division Director Moir stated that was more of a clarifier it's a cursor quick way to kind of try to quantify it. I wanted folks to know that not all systems call the same amount. Commissioner Overby you mentioned a basement surcharge prevention program what was that?

Division Director Moir stated that it is when there is a basement that has any plumbing fixtures in the basement and when there is large rain events water/sewage comes into the basement per code they are supposed to have a device that prevents that from happening. We would like to help people who have inherited old houses that do not have that device help them bring it up to code.

The rebate to help people scope their sewer system. Can you just discuss what that is. You're talking about when the company actually puts a camera through their system you have a program where people can maybe get a rebate on that? Jenna Olsen explained people can get up to \$250.00 for their sewer inspection back. They can also get up to \$75.00 back for purchasing water sense on certified fixtures that save water.

Commissioner Bose - I appreciate the fact that you lay out the short and medium term cost of doing this work but also the cost of not doing this work. We are paying for decades of underinvestment so I think it's really good that you continue to emphasize that. I also like in your report that you are laying out there are other points where we are seeing more of the problem being produced in terms of lake health but I like the fact that you zeroed in on okay this is what we need to focus on.

Commissioner Hogan raised a question on risk scores. Looking what we did in the last couple years and looking at what we're doing in the next couple years could you elaborate on that?

Director Moir stated that the bars are slipping because things are getting that are in the C category right now that we can't have enough money to tackle keeps escalating down it gets older. Being old is obviously one of our measured risks.

Engineer Lee added that the infrastructure at the water plant is a lot more mechanical. Director Moir stated the consolidation of East Plant and Main Plant would turn a lot of the assets at East Plant into potentially longer life assets and convert some of it's value into an actual force main.

Commissioner Hogan the proposed masters performance chart.

ITEM 6 – SHELTER POD PROPOSAL AND ELMWOOD AVENUE SURFACE LOT

In December 2021 the Mayor released an action plan to fulfill the promise of housing as a human right. This included the creation of a low barrier shelter pod community in Burlington. CEDO was tasked with developing a plan to procure shelter pods and associated infrastructure, a suitable location and engage a trusted community partner to manage the project and ensure delivery of social services.

The pods are designed to provide electricity, heat, and a place to sleep and a space to store belongings. Contracts for the pods have been signed and are in production. We have analyzed ten potential sites and the Elmwood Avenue Parking lot has been identified as the location that would best meet the needs of the project because of its proximity to transportation services and amenities and ease of its connection to municipal power, water and sewer. We are proposing to use the parking lot for 36 months to serve as a location for this emergency shelter.

There are 70 permitted parking spaces for use Monday through Friday and DPW has verified that the Lakeview and College Street Garage has the capacity to house the current permit holders at the Elmwood Avenue lot. DPW anticipates moving the lessors from Elmwood Avenue to Lakeview Garage with no loss of revenue expected.

Marcella working with CEDO for six years. Working on projects for folks experiencing homelessness. Established the resource center during the pandemic and it has become more than that and is now the Community Resource Center. Working with various outreach teams working around the city for the emergency program. Lots of different reasons why people want to come to this shelter and do not want to go to the hotels. Looking to have a community that is around the shelter, this is a model that has been used around the country.

Samantha Dunn the site was selected as the top priority site and this Commission has jurisdiction over the use of that parking lot and we're really here to make a request of this Commission to temporarily decommission this parking lot for parking for up to 36 months to support this project. I have been working with Jeff to make sure the city can accommodate the people who are currently using the parking lot in other facilities. We know that is the case. There is also another request to this commission to be able to accommodate them in the garage with the existing rate that they are paying for their permits.

Commissioner Hogan stated that the Commission's role here is to deal with the parking.

Commissioner O'Neill-OVivanco there are concerns of community members around the homeless and mental health issues already there. When will the community have a better oversight of what this community? Communication between the residents of the pods and the residents who live there and the property owners need to be key. People in the pods are in essence our neighbor. Do they have to follow the city standards of no fires, noise and safety as well.

Director Pine stated there is an oversight plan we are in the process of developing, we want this to be operation by July 1st. We are in discussion with organization to monitor this site, there will be a code of conduct, I do not have details yet but we have a commitment to develop a management plan.

Marcella stated the state has shelter staff and we are seeking funding from OEO for staffing of the site. There are very strict requirements around discharge. There are standards and we will be working with that.

Samantha Dunn stated that following the same rules and regulations as all the other neighbors in the neighborhood follow that is absolutely the intent of this project. The site will be staffed 24 hours a day and there will be a process of community meetings before this project opens for operations. Marcella was talking about a project of

engaging with neighbors and others in the community throughout the operation of this temporary facility. We can all learn from one another when we all engage with one another and that's the intent with how this facility would be operated.

Commissioner O'Neill Vivanco the need for responsiveness and underscoring the safety of the residents. What kind of reporting do we need to see how this project is going again if we are stewards of the infrastructure.

Director Pine this is a temporary approach and we need to establish what part of matrix do we need to report on. Reporting will be done in a fully transparent way at the City Council. We will certainly share that with the Commission.

Commissioner had extensive communication with CEDO Director Pine and shared that in a document which was obviously distributed to you late today. Commissioner Overby asked who was consulted about this location. We are making a decision about houseless people being in these pods. There was no conversation with the folks evicted from Sears Lane. We need to have more information about this. My primary concern people who are homeless have an unusual way to live. Downtown businesses and owner why not space out? There were nine other locations asked about in the paperwork. Will the Community Resource Center be relocated?

Director Pine stated they CRS was operating out of the VFW since the pandemic. The lease is coming up and they deserve to have a high quality facility on Elmwood Avenue that is staffed. This is a connection to housing and meals. To operate in multi locations will cost a lot more money.

Paul Dragon of CVOEO stated the VFW is coming to an end. They provided daily hot meals and there are advocates there daily. The new resource center will have hot showers and washers and dryers available, counseling services and private offices for the people who will be working there.

Commissioner Overby asked about the management and how there are no commitments from anybody and Director Pine stated that CVOEO staff resource are speaking with organizations.

Commissioner Bose this is a challenge we need to focus on the question at hand. No place no connection with. Hard to move forward. There is a sense of urgency of this. Would appreciate having conversations with people. Resource Center could be located somewhere else. Short term emergency effort. Is there a time limit on the decommission, move people back to the site?

Division Director Padgett stated that it is a three year decommission and they will be in the Lakeview/College Street garage for three years.

Commissioner Kennedy will there be any cost to the residents of these pods to stay there?

Director Pine stated no the costs are covered by federal funds as part of the American Recovery Plan Act.

Commissioner Padgett do you have a rough breakdown on the cost between acquiring pods versus administering staff.

Samantha Dunn stated this breaks out the capital costs for the infrastructure, the 30 shelters, the bathhouse unit will provide six full bathrooms is estimated at about \$750,000.00; operating costs estimated at about \$850,000.00 over three years. All these funds are through the ARPA funds.

Nicholas Pena, Janelle Pina, Scotia Jordan and Mary Abair Albarelli were all opposed to the pods being located in Elmwood Avenue. They shared concerns about it being a wet encampment and the safety of the residents in the area.

Damon Lane also owns property near the Elmwood Avenue lot and he is in full support of this project. Does not feel that the noise level will be any different than if college kids were around having a party

Vice Chair O'Neill-Vivanco (*from chat log*): "For the record, my comments were about the challenge of first securing the site before engaging in any outreach."

Commissioner Hogan stated they were to vote on this decommissioning of the parking lot.

Commissioner Bose – Aye
Commissioner Kennedy – Aye
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco – Aye
Commissioner Overby – No
Commissioner Hogan – Aye

ITEM 7 – ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Asset Manager Gustave Sexauer stated that we have implemented Vue Works for a little over a year now and stated it will give highest level of service for least cost, several departments are working together with this. We are configuring historic data, tech upgrades, training integration, data clean up, ARC G.

Vue works has asset inventory, service requests, quick responses.

Rick Vogler also made a presentation with Vue Works on how the Water Division is using this for inventory and work orders. Mr. Vogler will also be taking over for Mr. Sexauer after he leaves his position in April.

ITEM 8 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Thank you to the citizens of Burlington for approval of the General Fund Capital Bond as well as the Downtown TIF-funded Main Street Greats Streets Project.

Pleased with how the Asset Management is working for the city.
The Park Management Plan for North Winooski Avenue

ITEM 9 – COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco wanted to say thank you for the signs on South Union Street in front of Edmunds School. Thank you to the staff for dealing with this project.

Commissioner Overby stated there was concern about Intervale Road potholes along the railroad tracks. The city says the condition of the road by the railroad tracks is the responsibility of the rail company. There is a lot of traffic going down to the farms and the condition of the road by the railroad tracks needs to be repaired before someone gets hurt. We need to make an escalated effort to repair this. There is a lot of frustration in trying to contact VTRANS about fixing the road by the railroad tracks.

Commissioner Hogan also expressed his appreciation for the signage in front of Edmunds.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT –NEXT MEETING MARCH 16, 2022

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco made a motion to adjourn
Commissioner Bose seconded
Unanimous Approval

Meeting Adjourned 9:30 p.m.